

February 5, 1956

Dear Ed:

Esther and I have been pondering over the issues you clarified in your letter. We are very sorry that our plans haven't worked out as nicely as we had previously hoped. But don't blame yourself for this: for one thing, I am horrified to find that my own time is beginning to be tied up in much the same awful way (and this has been a warning to start doing something about that). But more important, we could not have gotten off to the early start we planned anyhow, since our remodeling work has taken longer than had been anticipated (even plus margins), and we could not have left for a couple of weeks anyhow.

Unfortunately, we really do have to get back to Madison not later than the first week in May, and I am afraid I do not see any possibility of taking extended leave after that until summer of '57 at the earliest. Next year, I will be accommodating four new postdoctoral people in the lab., and will have had so much turnover that I don't feel I should leave them to their ~~own~~ own resources. Three of them are from abroad, and will not be able to spend more than the one year here. So, I am afraid we will have to abandon more or less indefinitely our plan for a 3-months' visit/

I can see one expedient measure that might still be worthwhile considering: I notice that you will be away only one week in April. Perhaps we could arrange for a visit of just a single month, as a sort of preliminary to further collaboration later on. I am not optimistic about accomplishing a very great deal in such a short time, but it might be enough to see if there are some real problems, and it might be fun at that. In proposing this, I am counting on your not being greatly tied up yourself except for the time you would be actually away. I had in mind a trip that would let us arrive about March 23 (or a day or two earlier) and leave April 27. If all else works out, would there be a chance for some decent housing (undoubtedly rather expensive) for the interval? As to finances, I don't think you will have to make any special arrangements (though as we will probably want to spend considerable time east this summer, I want to save some credit here); however, if the lecture fund you spoke of were available for it, it might help to compensate for extra out-of-pocket expenses. We can discuss this idea in more detail in NY, and I am far from certain of its practicality, but if you have any preliminary reactions to it, do let us know.

Esther is planning to make the trip to NY with me. I was not clear how the polo conference was organized: would there be any objection to her sitting at some of the sessions? She does most of the virus work in this family, as you know.

Yours sincerely,